

Lightning strikes... continued from page 1A

he said. "Again, when we got there, it was on the ground."

Later that afternoon, lightning had struck again, this time on Sheep Cliff Road.

The call came in at 4:01 p.m.; the plea for help for a structure fire.

"It appears to have been a lightning strike," Chief Floyd said. "We had the Fire Marshal's Office come out on Saturday morning. It appears that it was a lightning strike. We actually couldn't see where the point of entry into the house was, but sometimes those lightning strikes can be a little bit elusive."

The homeowners live

in Orlando, Fla. They were in town recently and left the residence on Aug. 1, Chief Floyd said.

"There was no one in the house. That thunderstorm came through here Friday afternoon across the South end of the county. The Owl Creek area really took a beating," Chief Floyd said. "One of the neighbors heard a loud explosion and not too long after that saw the flames."

"By the time the neighbors noticed the flames, the fire was well involved," he said. "The house was about 2,500 square feet.

It was about a 95 percent loss. The basement was pretty much intact, but pretty much a total loss.

"It was heavy flames when we arrived, the troops did a real good job getting it under control," he said. "We got as good a stop on it as we could. It was just too involved when we got there."

Towns County Fire and Rescue is currently 120-plus calls above this same time last year, Chief Floyd said.

"We've had a rash of lightning strikes over the last two weeks," he said. "We've had a bunch of medical calls this year. It's been busy."

Jet Ski accident injures two

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Two Jet skiers were hospitalized following an accident on Lake Chatuge last week in Towns County, Fire Chief Mitch Floyd said.

"It appears it was a single Jet Ski accident,"

Chief Floyd said. "I'm not exactly sure of all the details, but there were two riders on the Jet Ski; one was more seriously injured than the other."

"The best we can tell both, suffered some neck and back injuries," he said. "The operator of the Jet Ski was air-lifted

to Grady Hospital in Atlanta and the passenger went to Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiawassee."

The accident was reported around 3:42 p.m., Chief Floyd said.

The names of the injured were not available at press time.

Ledford to read at Writers' Night Out



Brenda Kay Ledford

Brenda Kay Ledford will read her poetry at Mountain Perk Coffee House in Hiawassee, GA on Friday, August 13.

Writers' Night Out begins at 7 p.m. with Ledford's reading. An open microphone follows for people who wish to read their work.

A native of Clay County, NC, Ledford's work reflects her Appalachian heritage. She recalls her Hayesville High School English teacher, Mrs. Josephine Thurman, encour-

aged students to write what they know.

Ledford's poem, "Lake Chatuge," received the 2010 honorable mention award from Georgia Poetry Society. Her poem was published in the society's anthology, *The Reach of Song*.

She's a member of Georgia Poetry Society, Byron Herbert Reece Society, Appalachian Writers' Association, North Carolina Writers' Network, North Carolina Poetry Society, and listed with A Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers.

Her work has appeared in *Our State*, *Journal of Kentucky Studies*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *North Carolina Humanities*, *Broad River Review* (Gardener-Webb University), *Chicken Soup For the Soul*, *Country Extra*, *Echoes Across the Blue Ridge*, and other publications.

Ledford received third place from the North Carolina

Press Association for Feature Writing in 1999. She also won the Paul Green Award from North Carolina Society of Historians for her three poetry chapbooks, *Patchwork Memories*, *Shewbird Mountain*, and *Sacred Fire*. Her books are available at the John C. Campbell Folk School Craft Shop, Phillips & Lloyd Bookshop and online at: www.Amazon.com.

Finally, those interested in participating in the open microphone, may sign up at Writers' Night Out. Each person has three minutes to read prose or poetry. The event is free and open to the public. It also includes musical interludes.

Mountain Perk Coffee House is located at 195 Main Street in Hiawassee, GA. For more information, contact Mountain Perk owner, Mary Lawrence at: (706) 896-9385, or Writers' Night Out coordinator, Karen Paul Holmes at: (404) 316-8466, or kpaulholmes@gmail.com. NT(Aug11.A3)SH

Moonshine Cruiz-In...from page 1A

money they brought in during the inaugural event created by promoter Rakes Parrish, who spent his childhood summers on Owl Creek in Southern Towns County.

The Haulin' Mash Bash features smoked chicken or pulled pork plates, a cash bar, Cornhole events, and live entertainment by Steven Phillips and the Midnight Express Band. It also features lake tours of Chatuge.

"This is big for Towns County," Hooper said. "We're excited to be hosting the kickoff event again this year. We're looking forward to three days of excitement and a lot of new faces enjoying Towns County and Lake Chatuge."

The event, once again sponsored by the Towns County Tourism Association has every hotel booked from here to Murphy, NC, Association Chair Hilda Thomason said.

"Rakes said he'll have 2,000 cars registered and 10,000 people for the three day event," she said. "It's going to be huge for Towns County. It'll increase all the Hotel/Motel tax, the sales tax."

"All the hotels are full, I mean all of them," she said. "All the cabins and condos are full; the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds campground is full."

"Everything is full," she said. "There filling up in Blairsville and Murphy, NC. Hotels in Hayesville, NC are



Steven Phillips

full, Blue Ridge hotels are full. One lady called today and said she was from Cleveland and she's going to drive back and forth because she can't find a place to stay."

Car show participants are coming from as far away as California, Texas, Illinois, Tennessee, and the Carolinas.

"They're coming from every where," Thomason said. "There were 947 cars registered last year and 5,500 went through the gate. Rakes says he believes the event will grow by more than 40 percent this year."

"The folks that came last year said they'd definitely be back if we held it at the Fairgrounds again," Thomason said. "They felt really safe here last year with their cars. They could go off and leave their car and know it would be safe."

"The popular opinion is that we've got the prettiest and safest place in the United States to hold a car show," she said.

Vendors from all along the Eastern Seaboard are headed to Hiawassee.

"Thursday night we've got the big kickoff party at The Ridges Resort. Friday evening at 7 p.m. we've got the Hot Rod Rally Parade featuring 75 cars," she said. "They'll leave the Fairgrounds at 7 p.m. drive through town and end up at the Downtown Square"

Elvis Impersonator Bill Brooks will be on hand as Downtown Hiawassee opens up to a live street dance as Elvis breaks loose with his vocal chords.

The Pioneer Village will be open with demonstrations, crafters are coming in as well as vendors associated with the Cruiz-In, Thomason said.

"The Antique Farm Museum will be open, the water wheel will be going and we've got the moonshiner down there," she said. "We've got a lot going on. It's almost like another fair, just a different flavor."

On Saturday evening, the Cruiz-In comes to a close with a special concert by the Swingin' Medallions and The Drifters at Anderson Music Hall at 7 p.m.

"There are tickets still available and you can get them at the window at the Fairgrounds," she said. "It's going to be a wonderful weekend. I think a lot of our local folks are coming out for this. We've had a lot of local folks call about this event and that's good."

Men's Morning Coffee Group

Regency Hospice Men's Coffee Group has a new meeting place. Grinds-n-Glazes at 233 Hwy. 515 in Blairsville on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10 to 11:30 AM.

For more information please call Jan Deveraux, Chaplain at Regency Hospice in Hiawassee at 800-577-8791 or 706-896-1251. NT(Aug11.G2)gg